

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) A method of separating a particle fraction from a particle stream, wherein the particles of the particle stream are separated in a fluid in a container under the influence of gravitational force based on difference in vertical velocity, wherein the fluid and the particles are moved in a substantially horizontal direction defining a relative direction of movement, and wherein at a first location a first particle fraction is collected, and at a second location somewhat removed from the first location, a second particle fraction is collected in respective collecting means, wherein baffles are provided for causing the fluid to move in the relative direction of movement, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the baffles are placed maximally 3, ~~preferably maximally 2 and most preferably less than 1~~ x the diameter of spread of the particles that spread out the most of the particle fraction spreading out the most.

2. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the particles are introduced into a vessel having a substantially circular horizontal cross section and the fluid is moved uniformly in the circumferential direction in the vessel.

3. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein a container is used wherein the means are formed by baffles placed in the vessel and radiating from a shaft placed vertically in the centre of the vessel, toward the circumferential wall of the vessel.

4. (Currently amended) A method according to ~~one of the preceding claim~~[[s]] 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein as fluid a liquid medium is used.

5. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 4, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein a liquid medium is used having a density lower than that of the particles.

6. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 5, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein a liquid medium is an aqueous medium.

7. (Currently amended) A method according to ~~one of the preceding claim~~[[s]] 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the particle stream is formed by particles of a waste stream.

8. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 7, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the waste stream to be separated contains metal particles.

9. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 7, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the particle stream contains plastic particles.

10. (Currently amended) A method according to ~~one of the preceding claim~~[[s]] 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein prior to their introduction into the fluid, the particles are subjected to a classification treatment.

11. (Currently amended) A method according to ~~one of the preceding claim~~[[s]] 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the introduction into the fluid occurs in a particle size-dependent manner at different locations along the relative path of movement, such that the larger particles are the closest to the collecting means.

12. (Currently amended) A method according to ~~one of the preceding claim~~[[s]] 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein at the underside of the container the first relatively heavy and the second relatively light particle fractions are discharged separately via a respective discharge opening in the container.

13. (Currently amended) A method according to claim 12, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the discharge occurs by using a jet stream.

14. (Currently amended) A method according to ~~one of the preceding claim~~[[s]] 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the fluid has a vertical velocity such that the fluid originally present at the feed level in a container having a substantially circular horizontal cross

section, will during one circulation of the fluid have moved at least as far as the collecting means.

15. (Currently amended) An apparatus for the separation of particles, which apparatus comprises a vessel provided with baffles radiating from a shaft placed concentrically in the vessel and in the direction of a circumferential wall of the vessel, and wherein the vessel at the bottom or top is provided with at least two collecting means having their own discharge means, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein there are at least 10 baffles; ~~preferably at least 20 baffles and more preferably at least 30 baffles.~~

16. (Currently amended) An apparatus according to claim 15, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the circumferential wall of the vessel, which in use is in contact with the fluid, is designed for rotating at the same rotational speed as the shaft.

17. (New) A method according to claim 1, wherein the baffles are placed maximally 2 x the diameter of spread of the particles that spread out the most of the particle fraction spreading out the most.

18. (New) A method according to claim 17, wherein the baffles are placed less than 1 x the diameter of spread of the particles that spread out the most of the particle fraction spreading out the most.

19. (New) An apparatus according to claim 15, wherein there are at least 20 baffles.

20. (New) An apparatus according to claim 15, wherein there are at least 30 baffles.